Switzerland Section   Maria-Alexandra Paun

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Our Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches have organized many events in which the industry was involved. Below are three reports from IEEE Swiss Chapters on their main events, which highlight the Industry Relations.

1) Report from IEEE Swiss Solid State Chapter, Chair: Mathieu Coustans. We have been giving the floor to companies to speak on their last developments. Membership seems to appreciate with an average of 25 participants. Mathieu has written the first article in society magazine, given by a Distinguished Lecturer From AMS AG in Zurich. On 8 November 2018, IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society (SSCS) Distinguished Lecturer (DL) David Stoppa visited ETH Zurich. Stoppa, senior manager of the time-of-flight (TOF) development team at ams AG, Zurich, delivered the lecture, "CMOS Sensors and Readout Circuits for Three-Dimensional Imaging". A second event was held on the back to back lecture given by a start-up in Geneva and another from Zurich dealing with Neuromophic Machine learning Integrated solutions, particularly applied to vision recognition. These two lecture attracted some new members. The other aspects are really to be discussed in committee, as how they find a vice chair candidate, so they will proceed with electronic voting at society level.

2) Report from IEEE Swiss EMC/AP/MTT Chapter, Chair: Nicolas Mora. We can mention the HPE Workshop that EMC/AP/MTT Chapter held in February last year. Nicolas made a brief report for the AP chapter, a global report for the Section and an article that appeared in the EMC Magazine with pictures and a description of their event. The workshop was a one-day meeting for technical interchange on the topic of High Power Electromagnetics (HPE), with a focus in Nuclear Electromagnetic Pulse (NEMP), Intentional Electromagnetic Interference (IEMI), and Lightning Electromagnetics. The invited speakers gave lectures or short talks about their research or industrial activities. It constituted a very good opportunity to review the ongoing work about HPE in Switzerland and neighboring countries, and to foster networking and future activities in this domain that has lost some attention during the past years. There were 72 registered participants. Regarding the positions of the participants, 46% of them came from industry, 43% from academia, 8% from government agencies, and 3% did not include their position during registry.

3) Report from IEEE Swiss PELS Chapter, Chair: Drazen Dujic. After several years of inactivity, Swiss Power Electronics (PEL) chapter has been reactivated in May this year and is currently ramping up its networking activities. Prof. Drazen Dujic, head of the Power Electronics Laboratory at Ecole polytechnique fèdèrale de Lausanne (EPFL), currently serves as the chair of the chapter. Very first technical lectures, organized under auspices of the Swiss PEL chapter, have been organized at two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technologies, ETHZ and EPFL, respectively. In July at ETH, Zurich, Prof. Johann Kolar hosted Prof. Chunting Mi from San Diego University, USA, who gave a lecture titled "High efficiency wireless charging of electric vehicles". In September at EPF, Lausanne, Prof. Drazen Dujic hosted a lecture by Dr. Ki-Bum Park from ABB Corporate Research Centre in Switzerland, titled "Minimization of grid-tied power electronics converters". Both lectures were well attended and provided opportunities for exchange of technical ideas among participants. Material from these lectures is available at chapter web page www.ieee.ch/chapters/pel/. In incoming months, Swiss chapter will continue with organization of technical and educational seminars and workshops, providing a platform for networking and exchange among IEEE members.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

1) As Chair of IEEE Switzerland, while I attend different technical conferences or other events, whenever I have the opportunity, I will set up a booth with IEEE promotional material and I talk about the IEEE membership. Chapter and Affinity Group Chairs are also passionate to present the IEEE membership to other people.

2) We run events that people are interested in attending and willing to become IEEE members after they have attended them (e.g. the events organized by various Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches in our Section).

3) Also, some type of competitions like IEEEXtreme 24-h programming competition are very popular and attract many participants, especially Students and Young professionals.

4) Professional developments workshops attract many students and young professionals. The IEEE Student Branch at EPFL organized the Workshop on STARS methodology on October 6th 2018 which proved to be a success.

5) Also courses like the "IEEE Technical Writing Workshop by IBM Research" organized at EPFL Lausanne on September 27th 2018 including a face-to-face individual session with the instructor at the end proved very popular and the 20 places were quickly filled up, with people from outside Lausanne coming specifically to attend this workshop.

6) Also hot new topic as blockchain and drones are popular and people are very happy to join these events. We now have a Swiss Working group on "Blockchain and decentralized systems" that has just launched, also with the support of R8, on January 21st 2019 at EmTech 2019 in Davos. We also had the IEEE Day celebration at EPFL Lausanne (with more than 50 participants) on October 10th 2018 devoted to airborne electrical robots/drones, with the support and organization of the IEEE Student Branch at EPFL.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

1) The Section updates the section website regularly with information (events description, etc.) and sends invitations through eNotice to its members to invite them to different events that are being organized in Switzerland. Chapter and Affinity Groups also use eNotice to send invitations to events to their members.
2) We organize frequent physical meetings in the IEEE Switzerland Section ExCom (at least five per year including the Annual General Assembly) and establish constant dialogue through e-mails and phone calls when necessary.
3) We organize, at Section level, technical and professional development events, such as workshops, seminars and technical talks.
4) The Section checks the meeting reporting on vTools for all local units, Chapters and Affinity Groups. The Section via its Secretary, Mr. Ben Bowler, sends friendly reminders about the dates of reporting in order to get the rebate bonus.
5) We ensure to report in vTools all Section Officers, Affinity Group Chairs, Chapter Chairs, and Student Branch Chairs.
6) We check for the inactive chapters and send them messages about their status.
7) We also strive and encourage the formation of new chapters and invite the people who want to form a new Chapter to our ExCom meetings to present themselves and their vision for the new chapter.
8) We have a solid presence on social media (i.e. LinkedIn and IEEE Collabratec) where we also have a Switzerland section group and advertise our events.
9) At the events we organize, we ask if more people would like to volunteer with the Section, a Chapter, Affinity Group of Student Branch.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

1) IEEE Switzerland Section is happy to offer our full support to IEEE Activities in Africa.
2) IEEE Switzerland Section can provide all the necessary support for different activities and collaborations. We are reachable and open to cooperation.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

1) We have communication with the IEEE office in Vienna. We had close contact with them about the Blockchain initiative.
2) The IEEE office on EU policy is something of importance for industry people. Especially considering the last regulation taken on research in Solid State Circuit in Switzerland.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

1) The first iEEE Stammtisch@EPFL took place on Monday late afternoon Noember 26th in the MED building on Campus, with possibility of having drinks and snacks in the local Sushibar and if needed access to the Palaz Auditorium for visual presentations. In future these Stammtisch informal meetings, where members and their guests can attend without previous registration, will be scheduled on the last Monday of each month, same place and same time 5:30-7:30, the first for 2019 being scheduled on Monday February 25th, 2019.